

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
NEA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 177960 TOSEC 080077

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TOM RESTON

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: JULY 13 PRESS BRIEFING

NO. 7

1. THE SPOKESMAN'S BRIEFING OF JULY 13 WAS CHAOTIC AND
FOCUSSED ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS IN AN INTERVIEW
WITH LE MATIN AND FLOW OF ARMS INTO LEBANON.

2. THE FIRST QUESTION CONCERNED AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY
ROBERT TOTH OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES CONCERNING HIS RELA-
TIONSHIP WITH MR. SHCHARANSKIY:

Q: TOM, ROBERT TOTH DID A PIECE WHICH APPEARED IN THE
POST THIS MORNING IN WHICH HE SAID THAT SHCHARANSKIY,
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IN THE COURSE OF IDENTIFYING PLACES WHERE JEWS DENIED
EMIGRATION VISAS WORK, MAY HAVE INADVERTENTLY OR BY DESIGN
IDENTIFIED SECRET SOVIET MILITARY OR INTELLIGENCE FACILITIES
-- FOR EXAMPLE, THREE OCEANOGRAPHIC VESSELS. THIS RAISES
SOME QUESTION ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONTENTION THAT
THE CHARGES AGAINST SHCHARANSKIY REPRESENT A GREAT INJUSTICE.
HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THAT?

A: I SAW THE ARTICLE THAT YOU'RE REFERRING TO, GEORGE,
BUT I DON'T RESPOND TO IT. IT'S THE CONCLUSION OF A

PRIVATE CITIZEN. OUR POSITION ON MR. SHCHARANSKIY REMAINS UNCHANGED, AND I HAVE NO PARTICULAR COMMENT WHATSOEVER ON THE ARTICLE TO WHICH YOU REFER.

3. THERE FOLLOWED A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF ARMS FLOW TO LEBANON, WHICH IS HERE EXCERPTED:

Q: THIS IS ON THE MATTER THAT WAS RAISED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO ON THE ISRAELI ILLEGAL SHIPMENT OF U.S.-ORIGIN ARMS THROUGH THE PORT OF JUNIA INTO THE PHALANGE. I'M WONDERING IF A STUDY IS UNDER WAY OR ANYTHING HAS COME OF THE INVESTIGATION THAT PERHAPS YOU'VE SET IN MOTION ON THOSE CHARGES?

A: LET ME SAY SOMETHING GENERALLY HERE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. THE CEASEFIRE IN LEBANON IS STILL HOLDING. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE FIRING INCIDENTS FROM TIME TO TIME, WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THERE APPEAR TO BE VERY SERIOUS EFFORTS UNDER WAY TO NEGOTIATE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD REDUCE TENSIONS. AS IS ALREADY WELL KNOWN, WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MANY QUARTERS IN REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN BEIRUT AND IN LEBANON GENERALLY.

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AS THE SECRETARY SAID ON MONDAY, WE MUST CONCENTRATE ON SEEING TO IT THAT THE CEASEFIRE HOLDS AND THEN MOVE ON TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT STABILITY INTO THE SITUATION.

AS THE SECRETARY SAID, ONE WAY TO BRING ABOUT STABILITY WOULD BE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ARMS THAT ARE PRESENT AND ALSO TO SUPPORT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IN CARRYING OUT ITS MANDATE. CONSISTENT WITH THIS POSITION, WE WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT ANY LARGE-SCALE INTRODUCTION OF NEW ARMS INTO LEBANON SINCE THIS WOULD WORK AGAINST EFFORTS NOW UNDER WAY TO DEFUSE WHAT IS A SERIOUS SITUATION. WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE SUPPLYING ARMS BY SEA TO THE MARONITE FORCES. WE TALKED WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ABOUT THIS MATTER, BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER ON THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

Q: HAVE YOU SET IN MOTION AN INVESTIGATION INDEPENDENT OF YOUR QUESTIONING THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT?

Q: I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU ARE INVESTIGATING THE WAY IN WHICH YOU STUDIED THE LAST TIME THESE CHARGES CAME UP. IF I'M CORRECT, YOU ACTUALLY DID WARN ISRAEL THE LAST TIME SUCH THINGS SEEMED TO BE OCCURRING.

A: LET ME SEPARATE OUT HERE TWO THINGS. ONE IS OUR

CONCERN THAT WE NOT OR THAT THE VARIOUS PARTIES DO NOT INCREASE THE FLOW OF WEAPONS INTO LEBANON. ANOTHER CONCERN WHICH WE HAVE IS THE PRECISE KIND OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH IS OF U.S. ORIGIN AND WHICH EQUIPMENT FALLS UNDER U.S. REGULATIONS GOVERNING TRANSFERS TO THIRD PARTIES.

SOME WEEKS AGO, AN ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE GAVE US RENEWED ASSURANCES THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT TRANSFER TO ANY GROUP
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IN LEBANON U.S.-ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUBJECT TO OUR LAW AND AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL WHICH PROHIBIT THE TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT OUR SPECIFIC APPROVAL. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT WOULD CAUSE US TO DOUBT THOSE ASSURANCES.

Q: AND YET YOU'VE SEEN REPORTS THAT HAVE ENOUGH CREDIBILITY FOR YOU TO QUESTION THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AGAIN?

A: NO. I'M NOT QUESTIONING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. I WANT TO MAKE THIS DISTINCTION BETWEEN U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT WHICH IS SUBJECT TO REGULATION AND WHICH WE CAN CONTROL WHERE IT GOES.

WE HAVE BEEN TALKING WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ABOUT A NUMBER OF THINGS.

Q: WELL, YOU SAID OVER HERE WHEN YOU TALKED WITH THEM YOU RECEIVED ASSURANCES NOT TO SUPPLY TO ANY PARTY IN LEBANON ANY U.S.-ORIGIN WEAPONS. SO WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT FOR THE ISRAELIS THEN AND WITH YOU TO SUPPLY THE LEBANESE NON-U.S.-ORIGIN WEAPONS?

A: THE INCREASED SUPPLY OF NON-U.S.-ORIGIN WEAPONS WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR VIEW OF THE SITUATION, WHICH IS THAT ALL PARTIES SHOULD EXERCISE MAXIMUM RESTRAINT. BUT WE HAVE NO LEGAL CONTROL OVER WHERE NON-U.S.-ORIGIN ARMS ARE SHIPPED TO. WE HAVE CERTAIN AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL. WE HAVE CERTAIN CONSTRAINTS OF U.S. LAW WHICH DO ENABLE US TO EXERCISE SOME CONTROL OVER WHAT HAPPENS TO CERTAIN TYPES OF U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT.

Q: CAN WE INFER FROM ALL THIS THAT YOU DO HAVE EVIDENCE
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THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE INTRODUCING ARMS INTO LEBANON VIA JUNIA? IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE THE REPORTS?

A: WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS, YES.

Q: YOU ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS HAPPENING?

A: I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT, NO.

4. THE REPORTERS THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S INTERVIEW WITH LE MATIN, WHICH IS EXCERPTED HERE:

Q: TOM, THE WASHINGTON STAR REPORTED THIS MORNING THAT TASS NEWS AGENCY HAS STATED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S WORDS ABOUT THE ALLEGED U.S. POLITICAL PRISONERS "ARE NOTEWORTHY SINCE THEY COME FROM A MEMBER OF THE CABINET AND THEREFORE SIGNIFY AN OFFICIAL ADMISSION THAT POLITICAL PERSECUTION IS WIDESPREAD IN THE UNITED STATES. THE SOPHISTICATED MACHINE OF POLITICAL REPRESSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES IS BEING PERFECTED WITH EVERY PASSING YEAR."

MY FIRST QUESTION IS, IN THE LIGHT OF THIS STATEMENT FROM TASS, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH SENATOR BYRD'S STATEMENT THAT THE REVEREND YOUNG HAS "UNDERMINED HIS PRESIDENT AND HIS NATION."

A: I DON'T THINK I AM GOING TO BE IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS THAT SPECIFIC QUESTION.

BUT SINCE THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A SUBJECT ON SOME PEOPLE'S MINDS HERE, LET ME SAY THAT A NUMBER OF THINGS HAVE BEEN SAID AND A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SPEAKING TO THIS ISSUE OF WHAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG RECENTLY SAID.

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I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT TALKED WITH SECRETARY VANCE YESTERDAY BY PHONE, AND SECRETARY VANCE MET WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO CONVEY DIRECTLY THE VIEWS WHICH WERE EXPRESSED YESTERDAY BY SPOKESMEN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE VIEW I AM REFERRING TO -- I CAN ONLY REPEAT WHAT JODY POWELL SAID YESTERDAY ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION -- IS THAT STATEMENTS REGARDING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY COME FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

HODDING ADDRESSED PARTS OF THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY IN GENEVA. THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN ADDRESSING THIS QUESTION HIMSELF IN GENEVA. JODY ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

DO YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Q: TOM, IF I COULD FOLLOW UP. I THINK THAT IS A GOOD,

MEATY STATEMENT, AND I REALLY COMMEND YOU.

A: LES, WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION?

Q: IF I COULD JUST RUN A COUPLE MORE, BECAUSE IT IS A FOLLOW UP IN THE SPIRIT OF LAURA'S.

A: OF COURSE YOU CAN.

Q: JUST IN CASE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE US SOMETHING MORE. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A VERY DELICATE SUBJECT.

FIRST ONE, THE CONGRESSMEN FROM GEORGIA AND IDAHO HAVE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THEY WILL ASK FOR YOUNG'S IMPEACHMENT FOR "HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS."
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WILL DOUG BENNET WORK FOR OR AGAINST THIS PROPOSED IMPEACHMENT?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q: IF I COULD FOLLOW UP, THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD WHAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS -- UNIDENTIFIED -- DESCRIBED AS "AN UNPRINTABLE REACTION TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S STATEMENT."

SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE REVEREND MR. YOUNG HAVE BOTH GIVEN INTERVIEWS TO PLAYBOY, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT KNOW OF ANY WORDS PLAYBOY WON'T PRINT? COULD YOU GIVE US A HINT BY TELLING US WHETHER THIS UNPRINTABLE STATEMENT RHYMES WITH "M", "SS", "ITCH", "IT" "ICK", "UCK" OR "UCKER"?

A: THAT'S IT, LES. I HAVE NOT --

Q: WHY IS IT UNPRINTABLE?

A: JUST A MINUTE. LET ME ANSWER YOUR QUESTION BY SAYING I HAVE NOT SEEN THE WORD IN PRINT, AND I HAVE NOT HEARD THE WORD OR THE REACTION, SO I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS IT.

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Q: TOM, THIS MAY BE A TECHNICAL POINT, BUT YOU MAKE THE POINT IN THE STATEMENT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ARE GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE. IT JUST OCCURS TO ME THAT WHAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS QUOTED AS SAYING DOESN'T REALLY CONCERN FOREIGN POLICY.

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ARE YOU MAKING A DISTINCTION THAT HE HAS DONE THIS?

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A: I THINK THERE WERE SEVERAL PARTS TO THE INTERVIEW, AND I THINK THAT, YES, SOME OF THE REMARKS THAT HE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID DO CONCERN FOREIGN POLICY.

LET ME SAY WITH REGARD TO THE POLITICAL PRISONERS PART OF THE INTERVIEW, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE PRESS OFFICE AFTER THIS BRIEFING IS CONCLUDED.

Q: IN GENEVA?

A: YES. HE ISSUED IT IN GENEVA, BUT WE HAVE IT HERE FOR YOU.

LET ME ALSO SAY THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN PARTS OF THE INTERVIEW WHICH CONCERNED FRENCH POLICY IN AFRICA. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S INTERVIEW AND HIS REMARKS RELATING TO FRENCH POLICY IN AFRICA DO NOT REFLECT THE POLICIES OR JUDGMENTS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION AND MUST BE CONSIDERED AN EXPRESSION OF HIS PERSONAL VIEWS.

Q: HAVE THE FRENCH ASKED US ABOUT THIS?

A: ALL I CAN SAY OR CONFIRM IS THAT CONVERSATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THIS MATTER.

Q: ANDREW YOUNG SAID AT ONE POINT IN THE INTERVIEW, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED TODAY BUT NOT YESTERDAY, WORDS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SMITH REGIME BORE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACKS AGAINST MISSIONARIES. YOU SPECIFICALLY HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT THAT. I WONDER IF YOU WOULD?

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A: NO. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS THAT. I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q: TOM, GOING TO THE POINT THAT HENRY RAISED ABOUT WHETHER THE COMMENT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS WAS OR WAS NOT FOREIGN POLICY, YOU RESPONDED THAT THERE WERE OTHER PARTS -- LIKE THE RHODESIAN AND THE FRENCH, ETC., -- THAT WERE FOREIGN POLICY.

BUT I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU ARE THEN CRITICIZING HIM FOR TALKING ABOUT THE FRENCH AND ABOUT THE RHODESIANS, BUT YOU ARE NOT CRITICIZING ANDREW YOUNG FOR TALKING ABOUT THE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

A: I THINK THAT THIS WHOLE SUBJECT OF THAT PART OF THE INTERVIEW WAS VERY THOROUGHLY COVERED BY HODDING YESTERDAY IN GENEVA. WE HAVE A TRANSCRIPT OF THAT BRIEFING FOR YOU IF YOU WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT. I HAVE DELIVERED MYSELF OF ALL I AM GOING TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER MYSELF OF ON THIS INTERVIEW.

Q: HE DID NOT TALK ABOUT THE RHODESIAN MATTER, DID HE?

A: HE DID NOT. AND I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER YOU ON THAT.

Q: TOM, JUST A TECHNICAL POINT: YOU SAID IN THE BEGINNING THAT VANCE MET WITH YOUNG TO CONVEY DIRECTLY THE VIEWS THAT WERE EXPRESSED YESTERDAY BY SPOKESMEN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

DID YOU MEAN TO INDICATE ALSO THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD CONVEYED WHAT THE PRESIDENT TOLD HIM ON THE TELEPHONE DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG?

A: I THINK THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT.

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Q: SO THAT SECRETARY VANCE NOT ONLY CONVEYED WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID, AS YOU INDICATED, BUT HE ALSO CONVEYED THE THOUGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT, HIMSELF, TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG?

A: YES.

BUT THE PARTICULAR VIEWS THAT I WANT TO REFER TO HERE ARE THE VIEWS -- WHAT JODY SAID YESTERDAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE -- THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE ARE THE KEY SPOKESMEN FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

Q: TOM, DID THE SECRETARY ASK MR. YOUNG NOT TO GIVE ANY FURTHER INTERVIEWS OR TO RESTRAIN HIS ACTIONS, OR TO AVOID CERTAIN STATEMENTS IN THE FUTURE? WAS THERE ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC THAN JUST REMINDING HIM WHO THE SPOKESMEN FOR FOREIGN POLICY WERE?

A: I AM NOT AWARE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THAT MEETING.

Q: TOM, YOU INDICATED THAT THE AMBASSDAOR'S STATEMENTS ON THE FRENCH POLICY IN AFRICA WERE HIS PERSONAL VIEWS, NOT OFFICIAL VIEWS. WILL THE AMBASSADOR BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE TO MAKE PERSONAL VIEWS THAT RELATE TO U.S. POLICY, AND WILL WE CONTINUE TO HAVE DISCLAIMERS THAT THERE ARE NOT OFFICIAL POLICY BUT JUST THE VIEWS OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG?

A: I HAVE NO WAY OF PREDICTING THE FUTURE. IF YOU CAN
DO THAT YOU ARE A BETTER MAN THAN I AM. I HAVE NOTHING
TO OFFER YOU ON THAT.

5. Q: ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND -- IN VIEW OF JODY'S
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STATEMENT AND YOUR FOLLOW-UP -- THAT IN THE FUTURE,
ANYTHING AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAYS ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY --
UNLESS HE PREFACES IT BY SAYING, "THIS COMES FROM
MR. VANCE OR MR. CARTER," IT IS TO BE REGARDED AS HIS
OWN PERSONAL OPINION? OR NOT?

A: I DON'T THINK YOU ARE NECESSARILY TO TAKE IT THAT WAY.

6. THE FOLLOWING SUBJECT WAS BRIEFLY COVERED:

Q: TOM, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE ADMINISTRATION
DECISION ON THE OIL RIG EQUIPMENT AND THE COMPUTER? HAS
A DECISION BEEN MADE?

A: NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY DECISION TO OFFER YOU ON THAT.

Q: LET ME ASK YOU THIS CAREFULLY NOW.

HAS A DECISION BEEN MADE BY THE PRESIDENT YET? I AM NOT
ASKING YOU WHETHER YOU ARE READY TO ANNOUNCE IT.

A: I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. CHRISTOPHER

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 177960

FOR FORBES FOR UNDER SEC NEWSOM

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 177960 TOSEC 080077 ACTION USEDEL SEC JULY 14.

QUOTEUNCLAS STATE 177960 TOSEC 080077

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TOM RESTON

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: JULY 13 PRESS BRIEFING

NO. 7

1. THE SPOKESMAN'S BRIEFING OF JULY 13 WAS CHAOTIC AND FOCUSED ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH LE MATIN AND FLOW OF ARMS INTO LEBANON.

2. THE FIRST QUESTION CONCERNED AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ROBERT TOTH OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES CONCERNING HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH MR. SHCHARANSKIY:
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Q: TOM, ROBERT TOTH DID A PIECE WHICH APPEARED IN THE POST THIS MORNING IN WHICH HE SAID THAT SHCHARANSKIY, IN THE COURSE OF IDENTIFYING PLACES WHERE JEWS DENIED EMIGRATION VISAS WORK, MAY HAVE INADVERTENTLY OR BY DESIGN IDENTIFIED SECRET SOVIET MILITARY OR INTELLIGENCE FACILITIES -- FOR EXAMPLE, THREE OCEANOGRAPHIC VESSELS. THIS RAISES SOME QUESTION ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONTENTION THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST SHCHARANSKIY REPRESENT A GREAT INJUSTICE. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THAT?

A: I SAW THE ARTICLE THAT YOU'RE REFERRING TO, GEORGE, BUT I DON'T RESPOND TO IT. IT'S THE CONCLUSION OF A PRIVATE CITIZEN. OUR POSITION ON MR. SHCHARANSKIY REMAINS UNCHANGED, AND I HAVE NO PARTICULAR COMMENT WHATSOEVER ON THE ARTICLE TO WHICH YOU REFER.

3. THERE FOLLOWED A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF ARMS FLOW TO LEBANON, WHICH IS HERE EXCERPTED:

Q: THIS IS ON THE MATTER THAT WAS RAISED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO ON THE ISRAELI ILLEGAL SHIPMENT OF U.S.-ORIGIN ARMS THROUGH THE PORT OF JUNIA INTO THE PHALANGE. I'M WONDERING IF A STUDY IS UNDER WAY OR ANYTHING HAS COME OF THE INVESTIGATION THAT PERHAPS YOU'VE SET IN MOTION ON THOSE CHARGES?

A: LET ME SAY SOMETHING GENERALLY HERE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. THE CEASEFIRE IN LEBANON IS STILL HOLDING. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE FIRING INCIDENTS FROM TIME TO TIME, WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THERE APPEAR TO BE VERY SERIOUS EFFORTS UNDER WAY TO NEGOTIATE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD REDUCE

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SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT STABILITY INTO
THE SITUATION.

AS THE SECRETARY SAID, ONE WAY TO BRING ABOUT STABILITY
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TO THE MARONIT- FORCES. WE TALKED WITH THE ISRAELI
GOVERNMENT ABOUT THIS MATTER, BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER
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IN LEBANON U.S.-ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUBJECT TO OUR
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WE DO NOT HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT WOULD CAUSE US TO DOUBT
THOSE ASSURANCES.

Q: AND YET YOU'VE SEEN REPORTS THAT HAVE ENOUGH CREDI-

BILITY FOR YOU TO QUESTION THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AGAIN?

A: NO. I'M NOT QUESTIONING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. I WANT TO MAKE THIS DISTINCTION BETWEEN U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT WHICH IS SUBJECT TO REGULATION AND WHICH WE CAN CONTROL WHERE IT GOES.

WE HAVE BEEN TALKING WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ABOUT A NUMBER OF THINGS.

Q: WELL, YOU SAID OVER HERE WHEN YOU TALKED WITH THEM YOU RECEIVED ASSURANCES NOT TO SUPPLY TO ANY PARTY IN LEBANON ANY U.S.-ORIGIN WEAPONS. SO WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT FOR THE ISRAELIS THEN AND WITH YOU TO SUPPLY THE LEBANESE NON-U.S.-ORIGIN WEAPONS?

A: THE INCREASED SUPPLY OF NON-U.S.-ORIGIN WEAPONS WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR VIEW OF THE SITUATION, WHICH IS THAT ALL PARTIES SHOULD EXERCISE MAXIMUM RESTRAINT. BUT WE HAVE NO LEGAL CONTROL OVER WHERE NON-U.S.-ORIGIN ARMS ARE SHIPPED TO. WE HAVE CERTAIN AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL. WE HAVE CERTAIN CONSTRAINTS OF U.S. LAW WHICH DO ENABLE US TO EXERCISE SOME CONTROL OVER WHAT HAPPENS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CERTAIN TYPES OF U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT.

Q: CAN WE INFER FROM ALL THIS THAT YOU DO HAVE EVIDENCE THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE INTRODUCING ARMS INTO LEBANON VIA JUNIA? IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE THE REPORTS?

A: WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS, YES.

Q: YOU ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS HAPPENING?

A: I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT, NO.

4. THE REPORTERS THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S INTERVIEW WITH LE MATIN, WHICH IS EXCERPTED HERE:

Q: TOM, THE WASHINGTON STAR REPORTED THIS MORNING THAT TASS NEWS AGENCY HAS STATED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S WORDS ABOUT THE ALLEGED U.S. POLITICAL PRISONERS "ARE NOTEWORTHY SINCE THEY COME FROM A MEMBER OF THE CABINET AND THEREFORE SIGNIFY AN OFFICIAL ADMISSION THAT POLITICAL PERSECUTION IS WIDESPREAD IN THE UNITED STATES. THE SOPHISTICATED MACHINE OF POLITICAL REPRESSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES IS BEING PERFECTED WITH EVERY PASSING YEAR."

MY FIRST QUESTION IS, IN THE LIGHT OF THIS STATEMENT FROM

TASS, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH SENATOR BYRD'S STATEMENT THAT THE REVEREND YOUNG HAS "UNDERMINED HIS PRESIDENT AND HIS NATION."

A: I DON'T THINK I AM GOING TO BE IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS THAT SPECIFIC QUESTION.

BUT SINCE THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A SUBJECT ON SOME PEOPLE'S MINDS HERE, LET ME SAY THAT A NUMBER OF THINGS HAVE BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID AND A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SPEAKING TO THIS ISSUE OF WHAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG RECENTLY SAID.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT TALKED WITH SECRETARY VANCE YESTERDAY BY PHONE, AND SECRETARY VANCE MET WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO CONVEY DIRECTLY THE VIEWS WHICH WERE EXPRESSED YESTERDAY BY SPOKESMEN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE VIEW I AM REFERRING TO -- I CAN ONLY REPEAT WHAT JODY POWELL SAID YESTERDAY ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION -- IS THAT STATEMENTS REGARDING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY COME FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

HODDING ADDRESSED PARTS OF THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY IN GENEVA. THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN ADDRESSING THIS QUESTION HIMSELF IN GENEVA. JODY ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

DO YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Q: TOM, IF I COULD FOLLOW UP. I THINK THAT IS A GOOD, MEATY STATEMENT, AND I REALLY COMMEND YOU.

A: LES, WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION?

Q: IF I COULD JUST RUN A COUPLE MORE, BECAUSE IT IS A FOLLOW UP IN THE SPIRIT OF LAURA'S.

A: OF COURSE YOU CAN.

Q: JUST IN CASE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE US SOMETHING MORE. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A VERY DELICATE SUBJECT.

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FIRST ONE, THE CONGRESSMEN FROM GEORGIA AND IDAHO HAVE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THEY WILL ASK FOR YOUNG'S IMPEACHMENT FOR "HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS."

WILL DOUG BENNET WORK FOR OR AGAINST THIS PROPOSED
IMPEACHMENT?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q: IF I COULD FOLLOW UP, THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THAT
SECRETARY VANCE HAD WHAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS --
UNIDENTIFIED -- DESCRIBED AS "AN UNPRINTABLE REACTION TO
AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S STATEMENT."

SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE REVEREND MR. YOUNG HAVE
BOTH GIVEN INTERVIEWS TO PLAYBOY, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT
KNOW OF ANY WORDS PLAYBOY WON'T PRINT? COULD YOU GIVE US
A HINT BY TELLING US WHETHER THIS UNPRINTABLE STATEMENT
RHYMES WITH "M", "SS", "ITCH", "IT" "ICK", "UCK" OR
"UCKER"?

A: THAT'S IT, LES. I HAVE NOT --

Q: WHY IS IT UNPRINTABLE?

A: JUST A MINUTE. LET ME ANSWER YOUR QUESTION BY SAYING
I HAVE NOT SEEN THE WORD IN PRINT, AND I HAVE NOT HEARD
THE WORD OR THE REACTION, SO I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO
ADDRESS IT.

-

Q: TOM, THIS MAY BE A TECHNICAL POINT, BUT YOU MAKE THE
POINT IN THE STATEMENT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE
STATE DEPARTMENT THAT STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE U.S.
FOREIGN POLICY ARE GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY
OF STATE. IT JUST OCCURS TO ME THAT WHAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG
IS QUOTED AS SAYING DOESN'T REALLY CONCERN FOREIGN POLICY.
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-

ARE YOU MAKING A DISTINCTION THAT HE HAS DONE THIS?

A: I THINK THERE WERE SEVERAL PARTS TO THE INTERVIEW,
AND I THINK THAT, YES, SOME OF THE REMARKS THAT HE IS
SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID DO CONCERN FOREIGN POLICY.

LET ME SAY WITH REGARD TO THE POLITICAL PRISONERS PART OF
THE INTERVIEW, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT AMBASSADOR
YOUNG HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE IN
THE PRESS OFFICE AFTER THIS BRIEFING IS CONCLUDED.

Q: IN GENEVA?

A: YES. HE ISSUED IT IN GENEVA, BUT WE HAVE IT HERE FOR
YOU.

LET ME ALSO SAY THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN PARTS OF THE

INTERVIEW WHICH CONCERNED FRENCH POLICY IN AFRICA.
AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S INTERVIEW AND HIS REMARKS RELATING TO
FRENCH POLICY IN AFRICA DO NOT REFLECT THE POLICIES OR
JUDGMENTS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION AND MUST BE CONSIDERED
AN EXPRESSION OF HIS PERSONAL VIEWS.

Q: HAVE THE FRENCH ASKED US ABOUT THIS?

A: ALL I CAN SAY OR CONFIRM IS THAT CONVERSATIONS HAVE
TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THIS MATTER.

Q: ANDREW YOUNG SAID AT ONE POINT IN THE INTERVIEW, WHICH
WAS PUBLISHED TODAY BUT NOT YESTERDAY, WORDS TO THE EFFECT
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THAT THE SMITH REGIME BORE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
ATTACKS AGAINST MISSIONARIES. YOU SPECIFICALLY HAVEN'T
TALKED ABOUT THAT. I WONDER IF YOU WOULD?

A: NO. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS THAT. I HAVE
NOTHING FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q: TOM, GOING TO THE POINT THAT HENRY RAISED ABOUT WHETHER
THE COMMENT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS WAS OR WAS NOT FOREIGN
POLICY, YOU RESPONDED THAT THERE WERE OTHER PARTS --
LIKE THE RHODESIAN AND THE FRENCH, ETC., -- THAT WERE
FOREIGN POLICY.

BUT I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU ARE THEN CRITICIZING
HIM FOR TALKING ABOUT THE FRENCH AND ABOUT THE RHODESIANS,
BUT YOU ARE NOT CRITICIZING ANDREW YOUNG FOR TALKING ABOUT
THE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

A: I THINK THAT THIS WHOLE SUBJECT OF THAT PART OF THE
INTERVIEW WAS VERY THOROUGHLY COVERED BY HODDING YESTERDAY
IN GENEVA. WE HAVE A TRANSCRIPT OF THAT BRIEFING FOR YOU
IF YOU WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT. I HAVE DELIVERED MYSELF
OF ALL I AM GOING TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER MYSELF OF ON THIS
INTERVIEW.

Q: HE DID NOT TALK ABOUT THE RHODESIAN MATTER, DID HE?

A: HE DID NOT. AND I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER YOU ON THAT.

Q: TOM, JUST A TECHNICAL POINT: YOU SAID IN THE
BEGINNING THAT VANCE MET WITH YOUNG TO CONVEY DIRECTLY
THE VIEWS THAT WERE EXPRESSED YESTERDAY BY SPOKESMEN
FOR THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

DID YOU MEAN TO INDICATE ALSO THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD
CONVEYED WHAT THE PRESIDENT TOLD HIM ON THE TELEPHONE
DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG?
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A: I THINK THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT.

Q: SO THAT SECRETARY VANCE NOT ONLY CONVEYED WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID, AS YOU INDICATED, BUT HE ALSO CONVEYED THE THOUGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT, HIMSELF, TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG?

A: YES.

BUT THE PARTICULAR VIEWS THAT I WANT TO REFER TO HERE ARE THE VIEWS -- WHAT JODY SAID YESTERDAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE -- THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE ARE THE KEY SPOKESMEN FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

Q: TOM, DID THE SECRETARY ASK MR. YOUNG NOT TO GIVE ANY FURTHER INTERVIEWS OR TO RESTRAIN HIS ACTIONS, OR TO AVOID CERTAIN STATEMENTS IN THE FUTURE? WAS THERE ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC THAN JUST REMINDING HIM WHO THE SPOKESMEN FOR FOREIGN POLICY WERE?

A: I AM NOT AWARE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THAT MEETING.

Q: TOM, YOU INDICATED THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENTS ON THE FRENCH POLICY IN AFRICA WERE HIS PERSONAL VIEWS, NOT OFFICIAL VIEWS. WILL THE AMBASSADOR BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE TO MAKE PERSONAL VIEWS THAT RELATE TO U.S. POLICY, AND WILL WE CONTINUE TO HAVE DISCLAIMERS THAT THERE ARE NOT OFFICIAL POLICY BUT JUST THE VIEWS OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG?

A: I HAVE NO WAY OF PREDICTING THE FUTURE. IF YOU CAN UNCLASSIFIED

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DO THAT YOU ARE A BETTER MAN THAN I AM. I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER YOU ON THAT.

5. Q: ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND -- IN VIEW OF JODY'S STATEMENT AND YOUR FOLLOW-UP -- THAT IN THE FUTURE, ANYTHING AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAYS ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY -- UNLESS HE PREFACES IT BY SAYING, "THIS COMES FROM MR. VANCE OR MR. CARTER," IT IS TO BE REGARDED AS HIS OWN PERSONAL OPINION? OR NOT?

A: I DON'T THINK YOU ARE NECESSARILY TO TAKE IT THAT WAY.

6. THE FOLLOWING SUBJECT WAS BRIEFLY COVERED:

Q: TOM, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE ADMINISTRATION

DECISION ON THE OIL RIG EQUIPMENT AND THE COMPUTER? HAS
A DECISION BEEN MADE?

A: NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY DECISION TO OFFER YOU ON THAT.

Q: LET ME ASK YOU THIS CAREFULLY NOW.

HAS A DECISION BEEN MADE BY THE PRESIDENT YET? I AM NOT
ASKING YOU WHETHER YOU ARE READY TO ANNOUNCE IT.

A: I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. CHRI CHRISTOPHER

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